

U.S. Constitution

Article V

"The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; *Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article;* and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate."

Ratification

The Constitutional Convention of 1787, which gave us the U.S. Constitution, had very strict rules for ratification; it would require the consent of 13 out of 13 state legislatures.

The convention, knowing the new constitution would not likely pass such a tight requirement, **wrote a new process of ratification**, as found in Article VII of the U.S. Constitution:

"The Ratification of the **Conventions** of **nine States**, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same."

They changed **who** would ratify (convention rather than legislatures), as well as **how many** would be required.